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From: Manzanilla, Enrique
Sent: Wed 10/21/2015 1:41:57 PM
Subject: Fwd: State of NN statement by president
[PRESS RELEASE-2015 State of the Navajo Nation Address.pdf](#)
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From: <Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov>
Date: October 20, 2015 at 11:06:32 PM PDT
To: <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, Jared Blumenfeld <Blumenfeld.Jared@epa.gov>
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Subject: State of NN statement by president

FYI

One significant milestone of the Begaye-Nez administration thus far has been the Gold King Mine spill, which occurred on August 5, 2015. At the hands of a USEPA contract worker, the spill expelled upwards of 3 million gallons of contaminated water into the Animas River which a tributary of the San Juan River.

Hundreds of Navajo farmers and ranchers depend on the San Juan River for their crops and livestock. The spill had devastating impacts to the region.

Resulting from the USEPA's self-acknowledged responsibility in the Gold King Mine spill, Administrator Jared Blumenfeld visited the Navajo Nation last week to discuss remediation of the river. Discussion Topics included a 5-year plan to address the cleanup of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation, the Clean Air Act, and a preliminary long-range plan for the clean-up of the Gold King Mine spill.

A cooperative agreement is also in the process of being developed to reimburse the Navajo Nation for associated response costs.

"Relations between the USEPA and the Navajo Nation remain cordial and we are both very interested in reaching an agreement that benefits the Navajo Nation and our Navajo people," said President Begaye.

<http://www.navajo-nsn.gov/News%20Releases/OPVP/2015/oct/PRESS%20RELEASE-2015%20State%20of%20the%20Navajo%20Nation%20Address.pdf>